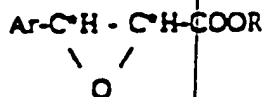


$$\text{Ar}-\text{C}^{\bullet}\text{H} - \text{C}^{\bullet}\text{H}-\overset{\text{I}}{\underset{\text{O}}{\text{C}}}\text{OOR}$$


Ar represents an aryl radical and

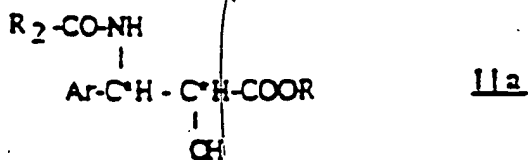
10

15

$$R_2 - \text{CN}$$

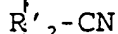
R2 represents an aryl radical,

in the presence of a protonic acid and of water, in order to obtain a β -arylisoserine derivative of general formula IIa.



in which Ar, R and R₂ are defined above; or

b of the direct synthesis of a cyclic chain by reacting a cis-β-arylglycidate derivative of general formula I defined above with a nitrile of formula

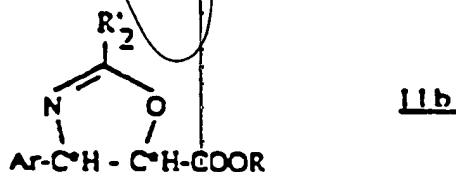


in which

R'₂ represents R₂ defined above or a lower alkyl or lower perhaloalkyl radical, such as

trichloromethyl,

in the presence of a Lewis acid or of a protonic acid, in anhydrous medium, in order to obtain the oxazoline of general formula IIb



in which Ar, R and R'₂ are defined above.

2. Process according to claim 1, characterized in that R represents an optically pure enantiomer of a highly sterically hindered chiral hydrocarbon radical, advantageously a cycloalkyl substituted by one or more alkyl groups, in particular a cyclohexyl.

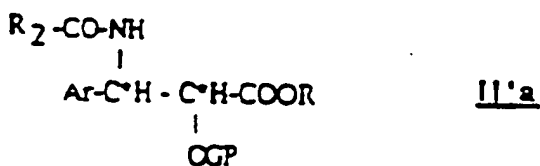
3. Process according to claim 2,
characterized in that R is one of the enantiomers of
the menthyl radical, in particular (+)-menthyl.

4. Process according to one of claims 1 to
5 3, characterized in that the cis- β -phenylglycidate
derivative of general formula I is of (2R,3R)
configuration and the derivatives of general formulae
IIa and IIb obtained are of (2R,3S) configuration.

5. Process according to one of claims 1 to
10 4, characterized in that Ar and R₂ represent a phenyl.

6. Process according to one of claims 1 to
5, characterized in that the protonic acid in the stage
a is chosen from sulphuric acid, perchloric acid or
tetrafluoroboric acid, the Lewis acid in the stage b is
15 chosen from the boron trifluoride acetic acid complex,
boron trifluoride etherate, antimony pentachloride, tin
tetrachloride or titanium tetrachloride and the
protonic acid in the stage b is tetrafluoroboric acid.

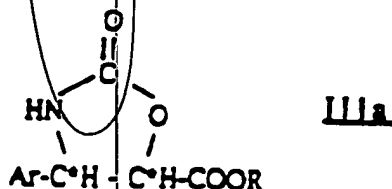
7. Process according to one of claims 1 to
20 6, characterized in that the β -arylisoserine derivative
of general formula IIa is converted by protection of
the hydroxyl by an appropriate protective group (GP),
in order to obtain a derivative of general formula II'a



in which

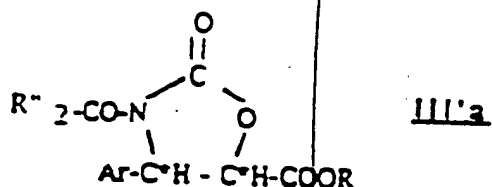
Ar, R and R₂ are defined above and
GP represents a protective group for the hydroxyl
functional group which is appropriate for the synthesis
of taxanes, in particular chosen from alkoxy ether,
5 aralkoxy ether, aryloxy ether or haloalkoxycarbonyl
radicals, such as, for example, methoxymethyl,
1-ethoxyethyl, benzyloxymethyl or (β -trimethyl-
silylethoxy)methyl groups, tetrahydropyranyl or
 β -alkoxycarbonyl radicals, β -halogenated or alkylsilyl
10 ethers, or alkoxyacetyl, aryloxyacetyl, haloacetyl or
formyl radicals.

8. Process according to one of claims 1 to
6, characterized in that the β -arylisoserine derivative
of general formula IIa is converted into novel
15 oxazolidinone cyclic intermediates of general formula
IIIa



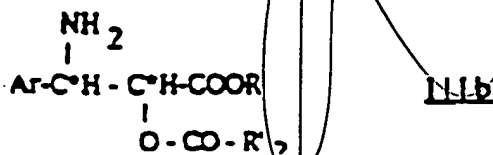
in which Ar and R are defined above
by reacting a β -arylisoserine derivative of general
formula IIa according to one of claims 1 to 5 with a
20 haloalkoxycarbonyl ester, in particular 2,2,2-
trichloroethoxycarbonyl (TrOC), and then by cyclization
in the presence of a strong organic base, such as
diazabicycloundecene (DBU),
optionally converted subsequently into the

corresponding amide of general formula III'a

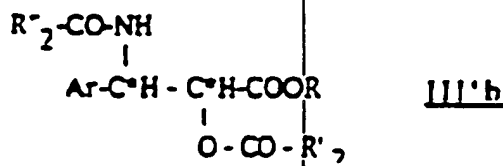


in which Ar and R are defined above and R'', represents
 R', defined above, an alkoxy radical or a linear or
 branched alkyl radical comprising at least one
 5 unsaturation.

9. Process according to one of claims 1 to
 6, characterized in that the oxazoline of general
 formula IIb is hydrolysed in acidic medium in order to
 obtain the β -arylisoserine derivative of general
 10 formula IIIb,



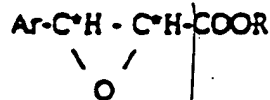
in which Ar, R and R', are defined above,
 optionally converted subsequently into the
 corresponding amide of general formula III'b



in which Ar, R, R' and R'', are defined above.

10. Process according to one of claims 1 to
 9, characterized in that the cis- β -arylglycidate

derivative of general formula I

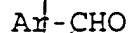


in which

Ar is defined above and

R represents an optically pure enantiomer of a
highly sterically hindered chiral hydrocarbon
radical,

is prepared by reacting the aldehyde of formula



with the haloacetate of formula



Ar and R being defined above and

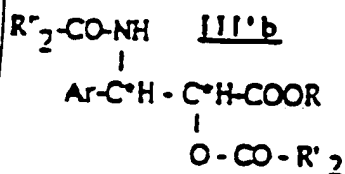
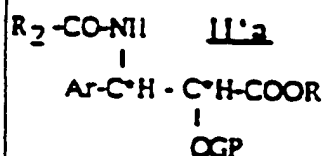
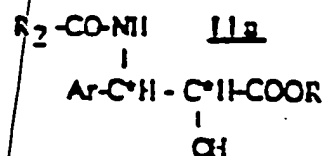
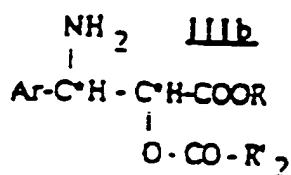
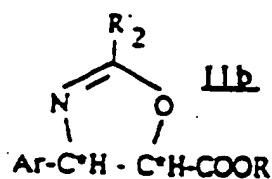
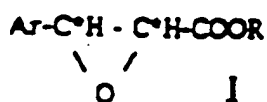
X representing a halogen, in particular a chlorine
or a bromine.

11. Process according to one of claims 1 to
10, characterized in that the derivatives of formulae
IIa, II'a, IIb, IIIa, III'a, IIIb and III'b defined
above in which R represents a hydrogen atom are
obtained by controlled saponification.

12. Precursor compounds of taxane side
chains, characterized in that they are selected from
the derivatives of following general formulae I, IIa,
IIb, II'a, IIIb and III'b:

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in which

Ar, R₂, R'₂, R''₂ and GP are defined in one of claims 1 to 3 and 5, and

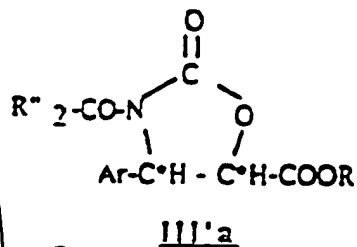
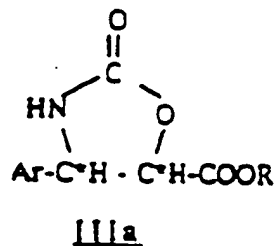
R represents an optically pure enantiomer of a highly sterically hindered chiral hydrocarbon radical.

13. Compounds according to claim 12, characterized in that R is one of the enantiomers of the menthyl radical, in particular (+)-menthyl.

14. Compounds according to either of claims 12 and 13, characterized in that the cis-β-phenylglycidate derivative of general formula I is of (2R,3R) configuration and the derivatives of general formulae IIa, IIb, IIIb and III'b are of (2R,3S) configuration.

15. Precursor compounds of taxane side chains, characterized in that they are selected from the derivatives of following general formulae IIIa and

III'a:



in which

Ar, R and R² are defined above or R represents a hydrogen atom.

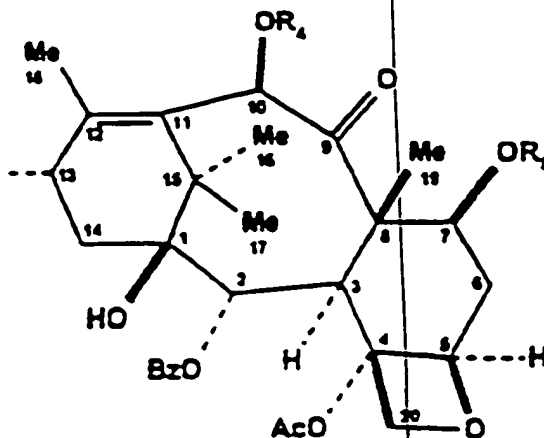
5 16. Compounds according to claim 15, characterized in that they are of (2R,3S) configuration.

17. Process for the preparation of taxanes of general formula IV,

C-B IV

in which

B represents a radical of general formula V



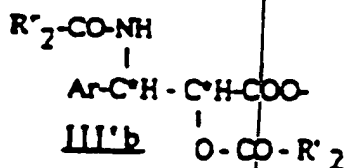
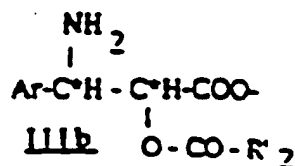
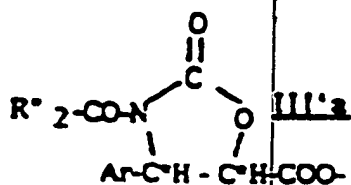
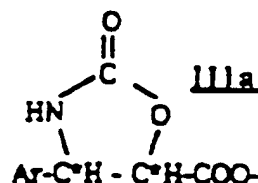
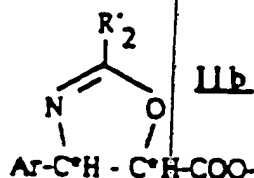
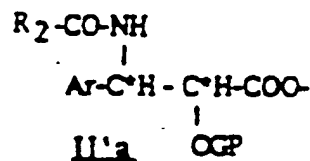
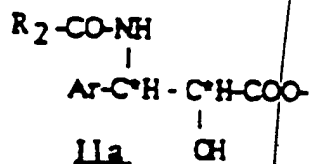
in which

Ac represents the acetyl radical,

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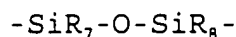
Bz represents the benzyl radical,
 Me represents the methyl radical,
 R₄ represents an acetyl radical or a protective
 group for the hydroxyl functional group GP1, and
 5 R₅ represents a protective group for the hydroxyl
 functional group GP2, and
 C represents a side chain chosen from the radicals
 of following formulae IIa, II'a, IIb, IIIa, III'a,
 IIIb and III'b:



10 in which Ar, R₂, R'₂, R''₂ and GP are defined above,
 by esterification of an appropriate baccatin III
 derivative of general formula V, carrying a C-13

hydroxyl functional group, with one of the derivatives of formulae IIa, II'a, IIb, IIIa, III'a, IIIb and III'b, for which R represents a hydrogen atom, obtained by the process according to claim 11.

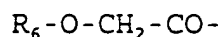
5 18. Process according to claim 17, characterized in that the GP1 and GP2 protective groups are, independently of one another, conventional groups employed in the hemisynthesis of taxanes, such as trialkylsilyls or TROC, or linear or branched bulky haloalkoxycarbonyl radicals comprising at least one
10 halogen atom, acyl radicals in which the carbon α to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom, or a trialkylgermanyl radical or GP1 and GP2 together form a divalent radical of formula



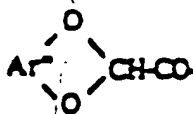
15 in which

R₇ and R₈, independently of one another, represent a sterically hindered alkyl radical.

19. Process according to either of claims 17
20 and 18, characterized in that the acyl radicals in which the carbon α to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom are chosen from
- alkoxy- or aryloxyacetyl radicals of formula



25 in which R₆ represents a sterically hindered alkyl radical, a cycloalkyl radical or an aryl radical,
- or arylidenedioxyacetyl radicals of formula



in which Ar" represents an aryldene radical.

20. Process according to claim 19, characterized in that:

the sterically hindered alkyl radical is a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl radical substituted by one or more bulky substituents chosen from halogens or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy or C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl or aryl radicals,

the cycloalkyl radical is a C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl radical optionally substituted by one or more bulky substituents chosen from halogens or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy or aryl radicals, preferably a cyclohexyl radical substituted by one or more linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl radicals, for example menthyl, its racemate or its enantiomers and their mixtures in all proportions,

the aryl radical is a phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl or phenantryl radical optionally substituted by one or more bulky substituents chosen from halogens or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy or aryl radicals, in particular the phenyl radical, preferably a phenyl radical optionally substituted by one or two above bulky substituents ortho- and ortho'- to the ether bond, and

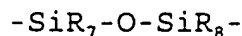
the aryldene radical is a phenylene,

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naphthylene, anthrylene or phenanthrylene radical optionally substituted by one or more bulky substituents chosen from halogens or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy or aryl radicals, in particular the phenyl radical.

21. Process according to either of claims 17 and 18, characterized in that R₄ represents an acetyl radical and GP2 represents a trialkylsilyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-tribromoethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2,1-tetrachloroethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-trichloro-t-butoxycarbonyl, trichloromethoxycarbonyl, phenoxyacetyl or trialkylgermanyl radical.

22. Process according to either of claims 17 and 18, characterized in that R₄ represents a GP1 group and GP1 and GP2 represent a 2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl or phenoxyacetyl radical or together form a divalent radical of formula



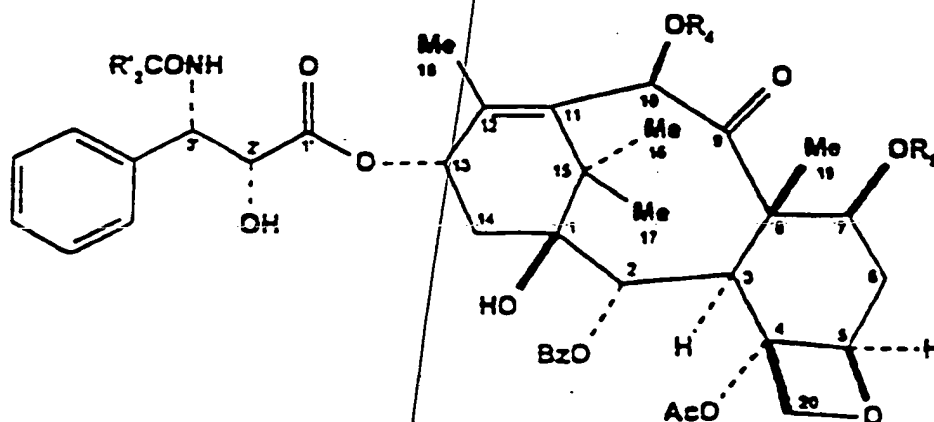
in which R₇ and R₈ each represent an isopropyl radical.

23. Process according to one of claims 17 to 21, characterized in that

C represents a radical of formula IIa with Ar and R₂ representing a phenyl and R₄ represents an acetyl radical.

24. Process according to one of claims 17 to 23, characterized in that, subsequently, the hydroxyls of the derivatives of general formula IV are

deprotected and, if appropriate, simultaneously or separately, the oxazoline ring of the radicals of formula IIb or IIIa is opened, in order to produce a taxane derivative of general formula VI



5 in which

Ac, Bz, Me and R'₂ are defined in one of the preceding claims,

R₄ represents a hydrogen atom or an acetyl radical, and

10 R₅ represents a hydrogen atom.

25. Taxane derivatives of general formula IV

C-B IV

in which C and B are defined in one of claims 17 to 23, with the exception of the derivatives in which C

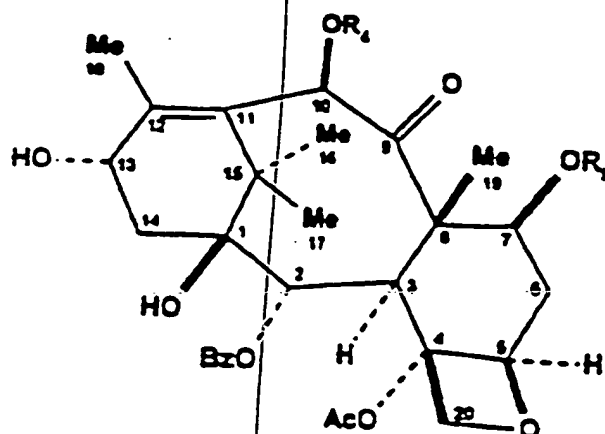
15 represents a radical of formula IIa, II'a, IIb, IIIb or III'b, and GP1 and/or GP2 are, independently of one another, conventional groups employed in the hemisynthesis of taxanes, such as trialkylsilyls or Troc.

26. Baccatin III derivatives which are of

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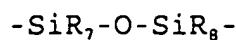
20 B3

use in the hemisynthesis of taxanes, characterized in that they are chosen from the derivatives of general formula V



in which

- 5 Ac represents the acetyl radical,
 Bz represents the benzyl radical,
 Me represents the methyl radical,
 R₄ represents an acetyl radical or a protective
 group for the hydroxyl functional group GP1,
 10 R₅ represents a protective group for the hydroxyl
 functional group GP2, and
 GP1 and GP2 are, independently of one another,
 bulky haloalkoxycarbonyl radicals, with the
 exception of TrOC, acyl radicals in which the
 15 carbon α to the carbonyl functional group carries
 at least one oxygen atom, or trialkylgermanyl
 radicals or GP1 and GP2 together form a divalent
 radical of formula



B3 in which

R₇ and R₈, independently of one another, represent a sterically hindered alkyl radical.

adB4

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